MASS. ED 20.202:M38

The Massachusetts Commission on the Common Core of Learning

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Robert V. Antonucci
Commissioner
of Education

Pamela Appleton
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Salem Federal St. School

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Springfield

J. Gary Bernhard
University Without Walls
Amherst

Allyson Bowen
Student
Oakmont Regional H.S.

Magda Cardoso
Student
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Worcester

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Boston Public Schools

Karla Baehr DeLetis
Superintendent
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Linda Erdmann
Elementary Teacher
Harwich Public Schools

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Student
Clinton H.S.

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Atty, Goodwin, Procter & Hoar
Boston

Virginia Freyermuth
Art Teacher, Duxbury
1994 Teacher of the Year

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Fed. Children w/ Special Needs
Boston

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Lowell

Linda L. Greyser
Ed. Consultant, TEC
Wayland

Jean Hamler
Intercultural Affairs Director
Stonehill College, N. Easton

James Hamos
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UMass Worcester

Frank Haydu
Kidder & Peabody
Boston

Clifford B. Janey
Chief Academic Officer
Boston Public Schools

Martin Kaplan
Atty, Hale & Dorr
Newton

Vivian Wai-Fun Lee
Center for Immigrant Students
Boston

Augusta Leibowitz
Math & Science Educator
North Adams State College

Deirdre Loughlin
Supervisor of Staff Development
Worcester Public Schools

Madelaine Marquez
Higher Education Executive
Mt. Holyoke College

J. Efrain Martinez
Elementary Principal
Springfield

Wayne McAllister
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City of Brockton

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Boston

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Mary Alice Wilson
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Amherst

Linda Wing
Lecturer, Program Coordinator
Harvard School of Education

Frank Yetter
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Invites you to help shape the schools of the future.

THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE

State commission seeks core curriculum, broad educational goals

SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE

Boston Globe
September 10, 1993

"Ms. Erdmann plans to get input from Cape teachers, students, parents and other citizens on what they think students should know in order to succeed in the workplace of the future."

Cape Cod Times
September 14, 1993

Seven in area on board:

Education panel to formulate goals

Worcester Telegram & Gazette
September 11, 1993

"Group members are all volunteers. . .convened to outline a broad plan for invigorating public schools and overturning the perception among many that the quality of education in Massachusetts is eroding."

Daily Hampshire Gazette
October 6, 1993

State names panel in school reform step

Middlesex News
September 11, 1993

"Though she will graduate from high school in 1994, Allyson Bowen will be (helping to) set educational goals for public school pupils for years to come."

Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise
September 9, 1993

5 WMass residents on panel

Educational goals sought

Springfield Union-News
September 13, 1993

"I do not want the world to pass our kids by."

Common Core Co-Chair, Martin S. Kaplan

"This will not be a law or a mandate, but it will be a set of expectations, goals and standards. This is an opportunity to come together as citizens of the Commonwealth to engage in an important discussion that will produce something meaningful, understandable and appropriate for the students in our schools in the 21st century."

Common Core Co-Chair, Madelaine S. Marquez

"This is the beginning. This is what's going to drive education reform."

Commissioner of Education, Robert V. Antonucci

A fundamentally new approach to education is sweeping the nation.

As we approach the year 2000, there is an increasing recognition that since the world has changed dramatically, schools too must change. Our students need new skills to be successful in the global economy of the information age. Our schools must meet new challenges presented by a changing social structure.

On June 18, the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 was signed into law. This historic legislation provides the Commonwealth with the four major components necessary to assure high quality education for every student:

1) New standards and programs that ensure high achievement for all students;

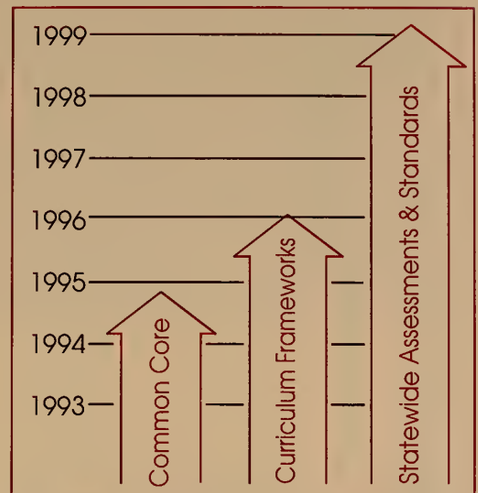
2) A fair and equitable system of school finance;

3) A governance structure that encourages innovation and accountability; and

4) Enhanced quality and accountability for all educational personnel.

This new system of education begins with the question: **What should all students know and be able to do?**

The answer to this question will be reported by the Commission on the **Common Core of Learning** in June of 1994 and will be translated by the Department of Education over the next few years into **curriculum frameworks** and a new approach to **statewide assessments**. Unlike previous curriculum reforms, this effort will include a strong accountability component by requiring all students to meet state **standards** as a condition of graduation.



Timeline for New Student Standards

Common Core of Learning: Agreed upon statement describing what all students should know and be able to do. The Common Core will be reported to the Massachusetts Board of Education on June 21, 1994.

Curriculum Frameworks: Recommended teaching practices that bring the Common Core into the classroom. Frameworks will be developed in mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, English and foreign languages by January 1995 and for the arts by January 1996.

Statewide Assessments: Tests given to students at grades 4, 8, and 10 to evaluate their progress towards the goals of curriculum frameworks. Unlike traditional tests, these assessments will evaluate students' abilities to perform real life tasks.

Standards: Specific measurable results. By 1999, all students will need to show competency in the areas described by the Common Core in order to receive a high school diploma.

What do you think all students should know and be able to do?

By the time a student graduates from high school, he or she should know the following:

By the time a student graduates from high school, he or she should be able to do the following:

Where do you live?

- ❒ west
- ❒ central
- ❒ metro Boston
- ❒ northeast
- ❒ southeast

How would you describe yourself?

- ❒ parent
- ❒ student
- ❒ teacher
- ❒ public sector: _____
- ❒ private sector: _____
- ❒ administrator
- ❒ school committee
- ❒ school council

Fill in the return address on the other side if you would like more information.

Massachusetts Department of Education
350 Main Street
Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023
(617) 388-3300

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December, 1993

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